

**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
M.A. IN EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, NKU**

ACTION
Agenda Item E-1-a
March 20, 2000

Recommendation:

That the Master of Arts in Education Instructional Leadership proposed by Northern Kentucky University be approved provisionally and registered in CIP 13.0405 (Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration).

Rationale:

- The proposed program would prepare individuals for certification as elementary, middle, and secondary school principals.
- The proposed program responds to a legislative mandate, effective September 1998, to provide for training of school principals at the master's degree level. This legislation was passed (KRS 161.027), and an administrative regulation was approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, in response to a documented critical shortage of qualified school principals in Kentucky. That shortage is particularly significant in the northern part of the state because of population growth.
- The program would be sensitive to the needs of prospective students through its reliance upon distance delivery technologies, summer courses, and articulation agreements with similar programs at other Kentucky institutions.
- Current classrooms and library facilities and services are adequate to support the program. Financial resources necessary to program success are already allocated to the program or are available through internal reallocation.
- The proposed program would become part of the Commonwealth Collaborative for School Leadership Preparation (CCSLP), a cooperative effort involving the educational leadership faculties at Kentucky's public and private institutions.

An executive summary submitted by Northern Kentucky University is attached to this agenda item.

Background:

In 1998 the Council gave provisional approval to several Master of Education in Education Administration programs. At that time, the Council requested that administrators and faculty involved in

Executive Summary of the Proposal for a Master of Arts in Education Instructional Leadership

The proposed Master of Arts in Instructional Leadership at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) is a thirty-three (33) semester-hour program which seeks to promote the role of the principal as a reflective decision maker leading to an informed instructional leader. The recent change by the Education Professional Standards Board now permits principals to be prepared at the master's level and provides the opportunity to create a program built on the ISLLC standards in order to refocus the role of the principal from manager to leader.

Demographic data gathered by the Office of Institutional Research at NKU shows a steady population increase in Northern Kentucky during the next 20 years. That increase in ages 0-17 will grow almost 10%, which will increase the need for principals and assistant principals. Many Northern Kentucky schools are at capacity and new buildings are currently being built and additional buildings will be needed which will increase the need for administrators.

To meet existing and future needs students will be able to complete this program in two consecutive summers while taking two "bridge" courses during the connecting fall and spring semesters along with EDU 618, Schools and Curriculum. Thus, Northern Kentucky University will be able to guarantee that a student who begins the program in June and meets all requirements will complete the program the following August.

The "bridge" courses are a distinguishing feature of this program. These will be site-based and will provide authentic experiences to better prepare students for their future roles. Students will return to their home districts to work on projects designed by their professors in collaboration with the students and the school administrators in the home district. Some of these experiences will include shadowing district administrators and participating in meetings of the school board and the site-based council. Students also will participate in the processes of budgeting, planning, funding, curriculum writing, and other leadership activities.

Northern Kentucky University will provide resource people to assist with the projects conducted during the "bridge" courses. Experts in the fields of law, special education, finance, curriculum revision, technology and other key areas will assist students as needed. Students in the program also will have the opportunity to work with leaders from business and industry through the P-16 Council of Partners, an organization to facilitate the dialogue between education leaders at NKU and Thomas More College with area business leaders. A second organization from which experts will be drawn is Forward Quest, a partnership between the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and NKU.

During the entire sequence of courses students will have access to human resources within the University that include instructional leadership and curriculum professors, technology experts, and library and media personnel. The required fiscal resources include space, library resources, and technology facilities. The classroom and instructional equipment laboratories currently are available on the campus of NKU, as is a KTLN studio, therefore no additional space will be required. The President has

recently allocated \$100,000.00 in extra funding to the library at NKU. Part of this money will be used to increase the library holdings to support this program. NKU recently received a capacity building grant in the amount of \$159,000. (matched by equal funding from the University). The grant, “Preparing New Teacher for Technology Rich School Environments,” will enable all NKU education-faculty to provide resources and professional development in applications of technology.

The focus of the Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership is to prepare educational leaders for the principal position in P-12 schools. The program is designed to build a professional knowledge base, leadership and management skills, and positive attitudes among aspiring educational leaders. Students completing the degree, with the appropriate practicum experience, will also qualify for the Professional Certificate for Instructional Leadership-School Principal, All Grades.

these programs work toward coordinated and collaborative program delivery that meets the goals outlined in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*.

That mandate resulted in the Commonwealth Collaborative for School Leadership Preparation (CCSLP). The chairs of Kentucky's master's programs in education administration have met regularly over the last two years to develop a collaborative approach to delivery. As Northern Kentucky's program proposal has been under development, members of its faculty have been continuously involved in CCSLP meetings. In Fall 1999, there were 190 students enrolled in the six programs associated with the CCSLP.

The CCSLP has developed a system of common courses and titles and a matrix of equivalent courses; coordinated the scheduling of courses, a statewide transfer policy, and program delivery via distance learning technologies; and developed a single superintendent certification program. Participants are now discussing, among other things, inter-institutional course and program development and the sharing of faculty. On October 21-22, 1999, the chairs and members of the faculty in education administration across Kentucky met to discuss the substance of their programs.

At the Council's request, the CCSLP will present a full report of their collaborative efforts in November 2000.

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